11/3/69

Dear Bud:

Re Autopsy, autopsy notes:

We discussed the possibility of subpenaeing Boswell as a witness.

After I needled/backgrounded him, Richard Levine, then of the Baltimore Sun, interviewed Boswell, leading to the famous apology, if he'd know it made any difference/if he thought anyone would ever seen it, he would have been more careful and made no mistakes

What Boswell also told Levine, that attracted no attention, is that there were fibres particles in the margins of the "neck" wound. There is no other reference to this anywhere else, to my knowledge. He said it showed in the histological slides. Now this was, on several counts, prime evidence (witness the use made by the Dallas doctors, who identified the Connally jacket as of mohair from this alone) and by the Commission/ Specter in adducing their evidence). This material could and should have been subjected to spectrographic analysis (we do not know if it was or was not) to see if, for example, it bore traces of the projectile, or, what is unlikely but should have been done, if they could have come from any garment not worn by JFK. Further, they provided a rather positive means of establishing the probability of rear entrance, which remains in the realm of conjecture. Remember, at the time tissue was removed for these studies, the doctors claim they were unaware of the other hole made by the bullet, this they had problems to address.

There is no reference to this in any of the existing notes. It is precisely the kind of data that should have been required in the notes made for the purpose of helping solve the crime and establish guilt or innocence, which are among the purposes of autopsies. I think this also provides us for an added basis for insisting there are other notes and we are entitled to them.

When we spoke the other day, I knew you were in a hurry, so I gave you only the evidence that Finck made notes during the autopsy examination. This, I knew, is what you wanted. However, I make this record of the fact that I have new, additional proof that Humes also made them exactly as he testified. It will be attached to the other, in a single file by the time of your return. Thus we have proof that all three doctors made notes during the examination, but those published and made available to me are in Boswell's handwriting only. I have asked for all pertinent notes made after the examination, in connection with the supplementary autopsy report. If you are not satisfied with the form, let us do it the way you want, less elliptically.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

Paul, Gary: Finck saw both others make notes during examination, made them himself and gave them to either Humes or Boswell before he left the room. Finck also made measurements, including from mastoid, so this may have been his decision, to measure this way, knowing it was unacceptable, or he may have duplicated the measurement of another, but still knowing it to be unacceptable.